

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-13

OMB-01 TRSE-00 CAB-02 COME-00 DOTE-00 EB-08

FAA-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 OPR-02 SY-05 CU-02 A-01

/089 W

-----191651Z 010042 /44

O 191325Z APR 77

FM AMCONSUL LAHORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1236

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL KARACHI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PK

SUBJECT: OPPOSITION MOVEMENT MAINTAINS MOMENTUM:

PRESSURE CONTINUES TO MOUNT ON PPP

REF: (A) LAHORE 0398; (B) LAHORE 0406

1. SUMMARY: PNA HELD HUGE PROCESSION IN LAHORE APRIL 18 IN CONTINUING PROTEST AGAINST PPP RULE, SAME DAY OPPOSITION REJECTED BHUTTO'S OFFER TO HOLD FRESH ELECTIONS TO PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY. VIOLENT CLASHES WERE REPORTED BETWEEN PPP AND PNA SUPPORTERS IN LYALLPUR. PEACEFUL PROCESSIONS CARRIED OUT IN A NUMBER OF OTHER CITIES AND TOWNS. THREE MORE MNA'S QUIT SEATS, INCLUDING SHAUKAT HAYAT. DISSIDENT PPP GROUP CALLS BHUTTO'S APRIL 17 ANNOUNCEMENTS "HOGWASH." NAWA-I-WAQT DEMANDS FRESH ELECTIONS. PIA SLOWDOWN AND THREAT OF OTHER LABOR AND STUDENT AGITATIONS POSE FURTHER THREAT TO GOVERNMENT. END SUMMARY.

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2. BHUTTO'S OFFER TO HOLD FRESH ELECTIONS, REJECTED AGAIN BY PNA, HAS NOT HALTED OPPOSITION MOMENTUM. PNA HELD MASSIVE DEMONSTRATION IN LAHORE APRIL 18 IN WHICH MORE THAN 100,000 PEOPLE TOOK PART. SECTION 144 HAS BEEN LIFTED IN CITY WHICH TECHNICALLY MADE DEMONSTRATIONS LEGAL. FOLLOWING PEACEFUL PROCESSION ON THE MALL, SMALLER GROUP OF VIOLENT

PNA WORKERS BURNED A BOOK SHOP WHICH SELLS "PROGRESSIVE" (READ SOVIET) LITERATURE, ATTACKED THE OFFICE OF A LAWYER MISTAKENLY THOUGHT TO BE PPP SYMPATHIZER AND RANSACKED A BAKERY. MOTIVE FOR LATTER ATTACK IS UNKNOWN. MORE PNA MARCHERS WERE REPORTEDLY SEEN CARRYING PISTOLS, STENGUNS, DAGGERS AND OTHER WEAPONS TO COUNTER POSSIBLE PPP ATTACKS.

3. ELSEWHERE IN PROVINCE SERIOUS CLASHES BROKE OUT BETWEEN PPP AND PNA SUPPORTERS IN LYALLPUR. PPP GROUP REPORTEDLY OPENED FIRE ON AN OPPOSITION PROCESSION, KILLING AT LEAST TWO AND WOUNDING THIRTEEN. ONE PRESS ACCOUNT PUT NUMBER OF WOUNDED AT FIFTY. PPP MOB, WHICH WAS LED BY A MEMBER OF PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY FROM LYALLPUR, WENT ON RAMPAGE IN CITY ABUSING PNA SYMPATHIZERS, TEARING DOWN PNA FLAGS, BURNING SOME VEHICLES AND ATTACKING A SHOP OWNED BY PNA WORKER. THERE IS GREAT TENSION IN CITY AND FURTHER CLASHES ARE FEARED. PEACEFUL OPPOSITION PROTESTS WERE CARRIED OUT IN BAHAWALPUR, SIALKOT, MULTAN AND A NUMBER OF OTHER PLACES.

4. DEFECTIONS FROM PPP CONTINUE: THREE MORE MNA'S, INCLUDING SHAUKAT HAYAT, HAVE LEFT NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, BRINGING TOTAL NUMBER SO FAR TO FOUR. IN PRESS CONFERENCE AT LAHORE APRIL 18 SHAUKAT SAID HE WOULD NOT JOIN ANY OTHER POLITICAL PARTY, BUT PLANS TO MAKE AN INDIVIDUAL EFFORT TO SOLVE PRESENT POLITICAL CRISIS. DIALOGUE, HE ASSERTED, IS THE ONLY SOLUTION. IN THIS CONNECT ON HE WILL SEEK FURTHER MEETINGS WITH LEADERS OF BOTH PARTIES TO TRY AND GET THEM TO COMPROMISE. HE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT PNA WOULD DROP RESIGNATION DEMAND IF BHUTTO AGREED TO HOLD FRESH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS.

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SHAUKAT SAID MORE RESIGNATIONS FROM PPP WILL FOLLOW SOON.

5. GROUP OF FORMER PPP MEMBERS LED BY TAJ MOHAMMAD LANGAH ISSUED JOINT STATEMENT IN LAHORE APRIL 18 CALLING BHUTTO'S PRESS CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS "HOGWASH." STATEMENT CALLED ON PEOPLE TO REJECT THEM, DEMANDED THAT PRESENT GOVERNMENT RESIGN AND THAT FRESH ELECTIONS TO NATIONAL ASSEMBLY BE HELD. APPEAL WAS MADE TO WORKERS, PEASANTS AND STUDENTS TO SUPPORT OPPOSITION MOVEMENT. HUTMENT DWELLERS WERE WARNED NOT BE BECOME TOOLS OF PPP BECAUSE PARTY NEVER FULFILLS ITS PROMISES. IN A RELATED DEVELOPMENT ABDUL HAFEEZ KARDAR, FORMER MEMBER OF PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY WHO RESIGNED FROM PPP LAST WEEK, ANNOUNCED APRIL 18 THAT HE HAS JOINED AIR MARSHAL ASGHAR KHAN'S TEHRIK PARTY.

6. PRO-OPPOSITION URDU DAILY NAWA-I-WAQT COMMENTED IN EDITORIAL APRIL 19 THAT BHUTTO'S PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY ELECTION PROPOSAL HAS COME TOO LATE. WITH ITS OWN LEGISLATORS ABANDONING THE PPP, NAWA-I-WAQT CALLED ON BHUTTO TO ACCEDE

TO THE OPPOSITION'S DEMAND FOR NEW NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS,
QUESTIONING WHETHER HE HAD ANY CONSTITUTIONAL, LEGAL OR
MORAL JUSTIFICATION FOR REMAINING IN OFFICE.

7. LABOR PROBLEMS: SLOWDOWN STARTED BY PIA PILOTS, FLIGHT
ENGINEERS AND NAVIGATORS APRIL 18 HAS SERIOUSLY CURTAILED
DOMESTIC FLIGHTS IN AND OUT OF LAHORE. ALL INTERNATIONAL
FLIGHTS HAVE BEEN CANCELLED AND AIRLINE IS REFUSING TO TAKE
BOOKINGS. ALTHOUGH IT DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE POLITICALLY
MOTIVATED, SLOWDOWN HAS EMBARRASSED GOVERNMENT AND RAISES
PROSPECT THAT OTHER WORKERS WILL USE PRESENT TURMOIL TO
PRESS THEIR DEMANDS. RAILWAY STRIKE IS REMOVED AND STUDENTS
HAVE THREATENED TO "JAM THE WHEELS" BEGINNING APRIL 21,
DISRUPTING ALL TRANSPORT NATIONWIDE.
GAMON

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 19-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
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